

APRIL-JUNE 2012

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- **Thoughts on the 150th Anniversary event from our Chief of Interpretation.**
- **A special message from our superintendent.**
- **Information from our Maintenance division.**
- **Fun Quiz**
- **Seasonal Safety Information**

DID YOU KNOW?

According to U.S. military records,

- **127 Union soldiers were 13 years old when they enlisted.**
- **Almost 320 were 14 years old.**
- **Almost 800 were 15 years old.**
- **2,758 were 16.**
- **6,500 were 17.**
- **Historians believe averages for the South were higher.**

The Sentry

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 11

PEA RIDGE NATIONAL MILITARY PARK

‘SUPER’ THOUGHTS WITH JOHN SCOTT, SUPERINTENDENT

On March 9, 10 and 11, 2012 a number of events were held to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Pea Ridge.

On Friday, March 9, The Pea Ridge National Military Park Foundation and the City of Bentonville, Arkansas sponsored a re-enactment of the March 6, 1862 skirmish between Union and Confederate troops on the Bentonville town square. Over 2,400 people attended. The majority were schoolchildren. That evening Bobby Horton preformed; Songs and Stories of the Civil War to a sold out audience.

Abundant sunshine and temperatures in the mid 60's, on Saturday March 10, brought 21,000 visitors to the park to attend events and demonstrations that



included; Civil War Artillery, Cavalry, Infantry and medical programs and black powder demonstration; guided history hikes on the battlefield, period

music, period civilian programs and demonstration and historical programs in the visitor center auditorium.

That evening 3,400 luminaries lit the night bringing tribute to the number of Union and Confederate soldiers reported killed, wounded or missing during the two-day battle. This was the first time luminaries were placed on the Pea Ridge Battlefield and they were witnessed by an additional 2,700 people. This brought the total visitation on Saturday to 28,000 people.

Not only did this number set a new record for one-day visitation to the park but it was the first time since the battle itself that that many people gathered on the

Pea Ridge National Military Park Foundation

Thank You from the Pea Ridge National Military Park Foundation!

The Pea Ridge National Military Park Foundation would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to all who attended the events and those who worked so hard to make the 150th anniversary event such a success.

We hope everyone who attended the events will come back and visit the park again.

Check out our Facebook Fan Page and keep up with the happenings at the park.

Pea Ridge National Military Park Foundation Board.

SOLDIER STORIES



Brigadier General
Benjamin McCulloch
C.S.A.

Except from a letter written by Charles Allinger.

“And remember well, when we started again...on the 1st day of February 1862 (snowing all afternoon and evening) under Gen. Curtis, chasing the Rebs all the way down to Smithville about 12 miles south of Bentonville, the 2nd Mo. was then at Smithville and the rest of our Brigade at or near Bentonville. I remember well when we had to strike tents in the night at Smithville, on the 6th day of March 1862, and march in double quick step back to Bentonville,

we lost our road and nearly marched into a Rebel camp and when we came to Bentonville in the morning, our army had already left and fallen back to Sugar Creek, our Regiment was then the rear guard, we left Bentonville at about 9 o'clock and about 1 1/2 miles from Bentonville, we were attacked and nearly surrounded by about 10,000 Rebs, when we just in time saved (sic) Gen. Sigel from being captured, we were only about 500 men, and had one piece of artillery, which was handled by Gen. Sigel himself.”

THE SENTRY

News From The Trenches—Maintenance Division

It's hard to believe we are coming into the spring season now. What happened to the winter? The maintenance division is grateful that we had a mild winter. The one snowfall managed to save us some funds on fuel and wear and tear on the equipment as the snowplows were only used once. However, the trade off is now we are into an early spring and the maintenance crew is gearing up for a long mowing season. Mowers are being pulled out of winter storage, the blades are being sharpened, the oil has been changed, batteries charged up and ready to mow.

The Sustainability Program I spoke of in the last newsletter is moving along. We submitted a grant request for additional funds to continue the program. Our hope is to have a program that will include an educational program presented to the area schools to promote recycling in our community. In addition we hope to purchase a trailer for our cardboard recycling. Once these trailers are in place we can return the loaned ones to Benton County Solid Waste for use in other areas of the county. We will be developing a “Green Team” to serve in promoting our program. These team members will be area Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Boys and Girls Club members as well as any others interested in sustainability.

The maintenance team has completed installing new boundary signs in various different areas of the park.

This project was a joint effort between law enforcement and the maintenance division. Matt Fry volunteered to work with the vendor to ensure we received the correct signs with the correct lettering. Once the signs arrived the maintenance team took over the project and installed them. They took a little getting used to just because they are different but after the first week or so they grew on me. They are much more visible to the passing motorist.

We are looking forward to having a new team member in maintenance and I hope to introduce this new member in the next newsletter. Other than these normal day-to-day operations, the

(Continued on page 4)

Elkhorn Tavern
Pea Ridge NMP



VIP NEWS

I want to give my sincere thanks to everyone who volunteered for our 150th anniversary weekend and made it a huge success. With such a small staff we simply could not do it without you.

From manning the breastworks at the front desk, to parking cars (and a lot of them), picking up trash, lighting luminaries and everything in between our 225 volunteers are definitely VIP's. We had BSA troops from Tulsa, Fort Smith, and Fayetteville; NWACC students; veteran VIP's; new VIP's; and park staff family members that all pitched in for the cause. Of course we can't forget our volunteers in the living history community that provided the demonstrations and programs for the

public to whom we are grateful. Thank you for all your hard work and passion for educating others.

I am still looking for 5-6 more individu-



als interested in joining the park cannon crew. The idea is to have a crew trained and available to fire the cannon for

school groups, special events, and 2 Saturdays a month at the park during the summer and fall. If you are interested, please send me an email troy_banzhaf@nps.gov and I will add your name to the list. The park cannon

crew has been invited to once again fire the cannon at the NWVA Nationals baseball game on Friday night, April 27 for Armed Forces night. So come watch as we set off some car alarms before the game.

Living Historians at the 150th Battle Anniversary

"There is nothing so American as our National Parks...The fundamental idea behind the parks...is that the country belongs to the people, that it is in process of making for the enrichment of the lives of all of us."

President Franklin D. Roosevelt

'Super' Thoughts

battlefield. Rain fell on Sunday reducing visitation and allowing park staff and volunteers to catch their breath after Saturday's record.

The parks visitor comment book revealed people came from 22 states and 4 countries including Arkansas, Arizona, California, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Iowa, Michigan, Missouri, Mississippi, New Mexico, Nebraska, New York, Oklahoma, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas,

Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming, Canada, Germany, Russia and Ukraine.

The event was a tremendous success and a big thank you goes out to all that worked so very hard to make it that way.



John Scott, Superintendent
Pea Ridge National Military Park

SINGING SEAMSTRESS

Our 150th Anniversary weekend is over, but we are still keeping busy. I think that we all need to stop and think about how love was one of the only things that soldiers had to cling to when living thought one of the most gruesome and deadly wars of our nation's history. William D. Littleton of Co. A, 7th Reg. AR, Militia, on Feb 8 1863, wrote to his wife Sarah Eichenberger Littleton of Ozark, Arkansas,

"Dear wife I want you to do the best you can and try to take the world as easy as possible [...] put all of your trust in the Lord and he will guide you through this world and he will be with you in the world to come [...] Oh pray for me Dear Sarah and pray in faith so if we don't meet on this [earth again]... I must bring my few lines to a close by saying that you Dear wife still remain my dear love until death [...] W Littleton [...] To my dear wife

fare a way good bye [...]"

William Littleton died of an illness and was laid to rest in an unmarked soldier's grave in Oakland Cemetery at Camden Arkansas. Sarah became a widow at the age of twenty-two and never remarried.



Park Guide, Sirena Evans

*"I charged the battlements
of Vicksburg,
climbed...Lookout
Mountain and [drove] the
Confederates from the
almost impregnable
position on Missionary
Ridge...but in all my army
experience I did not see
any fighting that
compared with...Elkhorn
Tavern."
Jacob Platt, sergeant, 9th
Iowa Infantry Regiment*

News From The Trenches— Maintenance Division

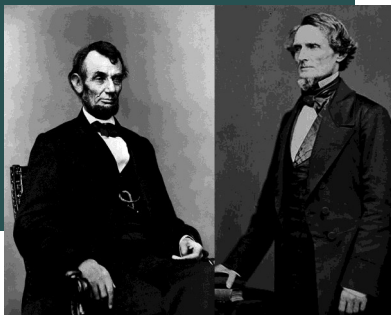
maintenance team will be painting the East Overlook and the Elkhorn Tavern this year. Our hope is to address the issue of visibility as well as get a new coat of paint on these structures.

The integrated approach I have witnessed at this years anniversary event is extraordinary. I have witnessed a park without divisional lines all pulling together for the same common cause and what a sight it has been! I want to invite all to come and witness what great teamwork can accomplish.

Pea Ridge National Military Park is grateful for a staff of dedicated employees that go above and beyond on a daily basis. I am proud to be one of the team.

Musical Trivia

There were a lot of Civil War songs. For example, when the first Union volunteer soldiers went marching off to war, they sang a song about famed abolitionist, John Brown, who attempted to start an armed slave revolt in 1859. The song was called "John Brown's Body." Julia Ward Howe heard the song as soldiers passed in review by her window in Washington D.C. Inspired, she wrote "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," using the same tune.



Civil War IQ

Test your knowledge of general Civil War history, facts and figures. Answers can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

1. For both Union and Confederate armies: red trim and striping on the trousers of a soldier's uniform meant he was in the _____. blue meant he was in the _____ and yellow meant he was in the _____.

- ☐ Artillery; infantry; cavalry
☐ Infantry; cavalry; artillery
☐ Cavalry; infantry; artillery

2. Wounded in action several times, General Nathan Bedford Forrest had _____ horses shot out from under him in battle!

- ☐ 11
☐ 22
☐ 29

3. The massive military barrage of cannon that occurred right before General _____ Charge at Gettysburg could be heard 140 miles away in Pittsburgh!

- ☐ Lee's
☐ Pickett's
☐ McClellan's

4. When the Civil War began, the U.S. had 15,259 enlisted men and 1,108 officers on active duty. By the war's end, nearly _____ million men served in the military.

- ☐ 1
☐ 3
☐ 7

5. Of the 3,530 Native Americans who fought in the Union Army, nearly _____ died.

- ☐ half
☐ one-third
☐ two-thirds

6. When Ulysses S. Grant failed to capture Richmond in the spring of 1864, he attempted to cut off General Lee's supply line by laying siege to Petersburg a few miles away. The siege lasted for _____ months, making it the longest siege in United States history!

- ☐ 3 1/2
☐ 5 1/2
☐ 9 1/2

Trivia:

When the war began, the Union Navy had 42 ships on active duty. By war's end, that number had increased to nearly 700!

The Battle of Brandy Station in Virginia on June 9, 1863 was the largest cavalry battle ever to take place in the Western Hemisphere —19,000 men and their horses fought in the 12-hour battle.

The Battle of Gettysburg in Pennsylvania was the largest land battle ever fought in the Western Hemisphere. In just three days of fighting, more than 50,000 Federal and Confederate soldiers were killed, wounded, or captured!

The 26th North Carolina Infantry went into the Battle of Gettysburg with 800 men. By the end of the battle, only 86 survived.

National Park Service





National Park Service

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Civil War IQ Answer Key

Question 1: artillery; infantry; cavalry

Question 2: 29

Question 3: Pickett's

Question 4: 3

Question 5: one-third

Question 6: 9 1/2

BECOME A JUNIOR
RANGER TODAY



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

SAFETY TIPS

Changing Safety Behavior

Taking a close look at your own safety behavior on the job -- and understanding the consequences of unsafe behavior -- could save someone's life.

Why worry about safety?

About 4.4 million Americans are injured on the job every year. Another 5,703 died in workplace accidents in 2004.

Injuries are painful. Rehabilitation from injuries can last months, or longer.

Disability payments rarely cover your full income, so workplace accidents can impact you economically, too.

Your co-workers depend on you to work safely. What you do on the job impacts the safety of others.

Things you can do to improve safe behavior

Consider the seven deadly sins of unsafe behavior and don't allow them to creep into your safety lifestyle. (Irresponsibility, cluelessness, tolerance, willfulness, procrastination, carelessness and complacency.)

Be especially aware of carelessness and complacency. Everyone is especially vulnerable to these common safety enemies.

Remember that horseplay is not OK.

Adopt good safety attitudes.

Avoid poor safety attitudes.

Take responsibility for your own safety first.